

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, self-esteem is a complex concept that includes mental, emotional, and behavioral elements that contribute to an individual's experience in confronting life's challenges; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that low self-esteem can be a factor in negative behaviors including violence, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, eating disorders, low academic achievement, and dropping out of school; and

WHEREAS, a healthy self-esteem, characterized in part by respect and tolerance for others, integrity, self-motivation, an ability to take criticism, a willingness to take risks, and accepting responsibility for one's actions, can lead to higher achievement in school; and

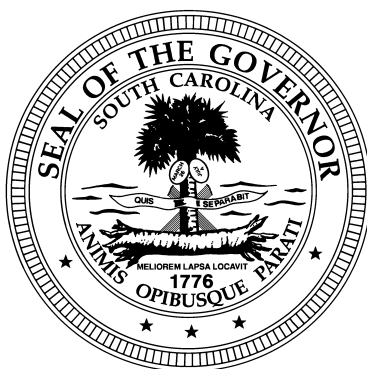
WHEREAS, "Project ESTEEM" is designed to educate and empower young students, parents and teachers across the Palmetto State by distributing materials, including a children's book based on discovering the meaning of success, bookmarks for students and faculty with a book list to help guide adults in the discussion of self-esteem and individuality with children, and a resource packet to integrate the materials in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Project ESTEEM is sponsoring a contest for students who complete the statement, "I am special because..." with character traits, physical attributes, or talents and illustrate their answers to encourage positive self-evaluation and individuality and will recognize, based on creativity and overall presentation of ideas, five statewide winners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 19 - 25, 2006, as

PROJECT ESTEEM WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to advance the development of character and positive self-esteem through education.



MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA